

WOODMEN ADD 125,000 MORE TO ITS RANKS

Publicities Building Answer Doubles Size of First-Aid Flood Sufferers.

Modern Woodmen of America, the largest fraternal beneficiary society in America, is noted for accomplishing big things, and the year 1922 has been no exception to its wonderful record in that respect.

During the first 11 months of the year, Head Clerk J. G. Ray issued benefit certificates to 110,136 new members, and it is expected that the addition of the December business will bring the total to approximately 125,000 for the year. This record is remarkable in view of the financial condition of the general public and the fact that high prices for commodities still prevail in most localities.

Some idea of the large volume of business, from a financial standpoint, handled by the head office in Rock Island, may be obtained from the cash receipts for the first 11 months of 1922, which totaled \$22,841,464.12. During the same period of time, the board of directors allowed and paid \$5,535 death claims, amounting to \$19,597,131.70, as well as \$68 claims for 70-year benefits, aggregating \$349,739.15. Under the by-laws of the society, a member who has passed his 70th birthday and is disabled, may surrender his benefit certificate and obtain a refund of the assessments paid the head camp on his certificate. Since that by-law became effective September 1, 1917, a total of \$1,131,073.75 has been paid to 2,238 members.

The society was organized in 1883 and has paid 158,104 death claims, amounting to \$272,760,880.68. Modern Woodmen of America was never before in such a prosperous condition, both as regards gains in membership and increased finances, a showing of a betterment of about 50 per cent having been made this year. On Dec. 1, there was a surplus of nearly \$30,000,000 in its benefit or mortuary fund, most of which is invested in high-grade bonds and first lien farm mortgages, both bearing the highest rate of interest, consistent with safety or principal, the remainder being deposited, at interest, in banks throughout the United States and Canada. The amount carried in banks is used to pay current liabilities.

The growth of the society's business and the pressing need for additional space necessitated the erection this year of an addition to the publication building, where all printing for the head office is done. The annex is substantially the same size as the old building, three stories high, and is built of brick and concrete. The cost of the annex will approximate \$125,000. At the sanatorium owned and operated by

Three hundred fifty new members were secured in the two cities and initiated in the society in a series of four meetings, as it was not thought possible to secure accommodations so that all could be adopted in the society at one time. The state supervising deputy and supreme physician attended each of the meetings, taking part in the initiatory work. Harmony camp, No. 2,846 of Moline, held the first of these meetings, having 70 new candidates. The next evening Belle K camp, No. 102 of Moline, initiated almost as many. The following evening Fay Hayes camp, No. 281 of Rock Island, adopted a class of 104, and as this was the first camp to "go over the top" during the campaign, and also had the largest class of the various camps, a prize banner was awarded to this camp by the executive council. Dec. 15 Mayflower camp, No. 101, Prospect camp, No. 3,631, Dewey camp, No. 1,036 and Van Galder camp, No. 6,639, held a joint class adoption, having 100 candidates. This concluded the meetings, but it did not close the campaign, as all of the camps will continue with their organizations now in force until the March-to-March drive is over. Rock Island camp and Milan camp will hold their class adoption on first of February.

From reports of the large number of class adoptions being held throughout the many camps and the interest manifested by the entire membership in securing new members during this campaign, there is no doubt that the 50,000 new members will be secured during this drive and when the campaign closes next March that the greatest campaign which has ever been conducted by this society for new members will be a success.

Queer pets of sailors of the United States navy include pigs, dogs, parrots, ducks, goats and rabbits and one enthusiast took an Isthmian tiger cub on board the Pennsylvania.

Material for the suspension bridge, 420 feet long, over the Colorado river in the Grand Canyon, was carried 11 miles from the railroad by pack animals down steep, winding trails to the bridge site.

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Modern Woodmen of America has always responded generously to appeals for aid for its afflicted members. In the spring of this year, the Illinois and Mississippi rivers overflowed, causing great loss to the residents in the valleys of those rivers. In response to a nationwide appeal for assistance, a fund was created by donations from local camps or lodges, to be used in assisting members of the society residing in the flooded districts. The executive council, prior to the issuance of the appeal for aid, authorized an appropriation of \$2,500 from the general fund of the society for the immediate relief of stricken members. Head Clerk Ray having been appointed custodian of the relief fund. In all, 92 claims for relief were paid, aggregating almost \$6,000.

One of the most attractive features of the society is its Foresters or uniformed rank. Perhaps no one thing creates and holds more interest in local camp activities than the Foresters, or drill teams, as they are commonly called. Head Consul A. R. Talbot, Lincoln, Neb., is commander-in-chief of the Foresters, and General Joseph Riehe, Davenport, is chief of staff. To date, there is a record of 4,242 organized teams, composed of approximately 75,000 men.

Camp No. 26, Rock Island, has for many years had the best drilled

CAR OPERATION BY ONE MAN IS EVENT OF YEAR

Tri-City Railway Company Expends \$150,165 for Improvements During 1922

The momentous incident in the history of the Tri-City Railway company in the last year was the very radical change from two-men to one-man operation.

The preliminary step of the change was realized Jan. 9, when the Illinois commerce commission issued an order granting the Tri-City Railway company permission to operate all its cars with one man and to change the rate of fare from 9 cents to 5 cents. This rate was allowed when the passenger presented an identification card which cost 50 cents, good for the current month. At this time the company also ordered four tokens to be sold for 25 cents, and fixed a fare, for the casual rider, of 10 cents.

The company equipped 62 cars with safety devices which made it necessary to bring the cars to a stop before the doors were opened and to close the doors before the car was able to start. These devices also provided that, in case the operator was overcome, the car would be brought to a full stop automatically by the application of the air brakes. This mechanical

Another large reconstruction job was made necessary by the loss of the trestle bridge to Campbell's island, washed out by high water in the spring of the year.

Large Sum Spent.
Another expenditure for greater efficiency and safety was the installation of an electric switch at the corner of Third avenue and Twentieth street in Rock Island.

In summing up the report, T. C. Roderick, general manager of the Tri-City Railway company, calls attention to the fact that the total expenditure during the year was \$150,165, of which \$70,000 went for labor and \$50,000 for paving.

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 Illinois Oil Company General Offices, Rock Island.
 Audubon Grade School, Rock Island.
 Hill Furniture Company Store, Rock Island.
 First Church of Christ, Scientist, Moline.

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